



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 7 August 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
7 AUGUST 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

The Soviets are not letting Prague forget that they are watching. Although yesterday's official Soviet communiqué avoided the harsh language of July, it reminded the Czechs that carrying the provisions of the Bratislava agreement into action was the "prime international task" for the agreement's signers. Moscow, the communiqué said, "will be doing, for its part, everything in its power to this end."

There is still no sign that the Soviets and their conservative allies have moved any of their troops away from the Czechoslovak border. [REDACTED]

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2. Soviet Union

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3. Iraq

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4. Panama

[Redacted]

5. Ecuador

President-elect Velasco is now threatening not to take office on 1 September. His reason is that outgoing President Arosemena has signed a bill giving tenure to most public employees, and Velasco had been counting on passing out government jobs wholesale to his supporters.

Our embassy believes Velasco will eventually be prevailed on to assume the presidency, but not even his close associates can predict with any confidence what he will do. He may not even know himself.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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7 August 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Propaganda May Herald Offensive: Recent North Vietnamese propaganda reinforces indications that the Communists are on the verge of another offensive in South Vietnam. Some Hanoi domestic broadcasts seem designed to brace the North Vietnamese for another major effort and possibly for a resumption of heavier and more wide-ranging US air attacks.

Hanoi is arguing that because the US is still bent on a military solution, additional Communist military pressure is required. The North Vietnamese use statements by top US leaders as evidence for their conclusion.

In one recent domestic broadcast, Hanoi radio said that President Johnson on 31 July had mentioned the possibility of "increasing military measures." Listeners were told the Johnson administration was in a "vicious cycle" which could only be broken by Communist military force. An editorial in Nhan Dan on 3 August called on the populace to be ready for new US "escalation" and emphasized once again that this required special measures to maintain internal security and public order. Other commentary over the past week or so has been in a similar vein.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report to-
day.

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